

CPYRGHT

Lives at Stake.

The need for complete secrecy for undercover intelligence operations—spying—is obvious. The lives of spies depend on the other side's total lack of knowledge of how they get in, how they report and who their contacts are. A carefully built up undercover intelligence operation can be destroyed and many of the operatives executed as a result of an indiscretion at a Washington cocktail party.

If a Senator or Representative cannot be trusted, one may ask, how can the thousands of people who work for CIA around the world be trusted? The answer is that everyone who joins the CIA is carefully investigated for discretion and loyalty and is subject to prosecution under special laws for failures of discretion. They are legally bound for the rest of their lives, if they leave CIA, not to disclose anything about the agency.

Senators and Representatives are not investigated and there are no legal strings to prevent them from making disclosures at some time.

Intelligence methods do not change much. CIA is suffering now from the rash of books about the wartime Office of Strategic Services which disclosed our intelligence methods. The necessary legal authority to prevent this from happening again has been granted CIA.

Basically, CIA's objection to a large congressional committee arises from the well known fact that the more people know a secret, the more likely it is to be disclosed.

Some of CIA's Jobs.

CIA does a great deal besides cloak-and-dagger work. It analyzes the technical publications of the countries it is interested in and the political pronouncements of their officials. It records radio broadcasts and analyzes them. It receives and analyzes the intelligence procured by the armed services, the State Department and other agencies operating abroad. It is geared for quick action so that the United States is unlikely to suffer a future atomic Pearl Harbor.

A special desk handles day-to-day matters much like the city editor on a large newspaper. The implications of some cryptic fact or speech are analyzed at once and a quick flash goes to the appropriate official, perhaps the President.

A superior intelligence agency cannot be created overnight. In the opinion of some in a position to know, the CIA has accomplished an almost miraculous feat in reaching its present state of excellence. It is generally conceded that only the Soviet Union has better intelligence now than the United States. Even this is primarily due to the much simpler problem the Soviets have in gaining intelligence in the Democracies than the United States has in penetrating Communist security precautions.

Fear CIA Will Be Hurt.

There is general fear that close congressional supervision of the agency will hurt it. Even critics who have a basis for their opinion feel that the present conditions under which the agency operates should not be changed.

The problem is to select an able director who can be trusted and to trust him under the supervision of the President and the National Security Council.

The Hoover Commission task force reported that the present director is "industrious, objective, selfless, enthusiastic and imaginative."